namely, proximity to the epicenter & magnitude of the earthquake, Tsunami wave pattern and velocity, coastal bathymetry, presence of sandy coastal dunes and buffer of vegetation behind the beaches.

(b) and (c) It is, however, true that mangroves provide protection to coastal areas against erosion, cyclones and tidal waves. The Coastal States and Union Territories have been asked to submit proposals for enhancement of area under mangroves. However, not all coastal areas are suitable for mangrove plantation as mangrove requires an appropriate mix and saline & freshwater, and soft substrate like mudflats to be able to grow and perpetuate.

Review of Coastal Regulation

3936.SHRI B.J. PANDA:
SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government propose to go in for a review of coastal regulations for determining settlement and development along the country's long coastline;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the deficiencies that have been detected in the existing rules and action plan to remove these deficiencies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) and (b) The Government constituted and Expert Committee under the Chairmanship of Prof. M.S. Swaminathan in July, 2004 to review the Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ) Notification, 1991 in the light of findings and recommendations of all previous Expert Committees constituted by the Ministry to address specific issues of CRZ Notification, 1991, various judicial pronouncement relating to CRZ Notification, 1991 and to suggest suitable regulatory framework based on well established scientific principles of Coastal Zone Management. The Committee has submitted its report to the Ministry on 14th February, 2005.

(c) Some of the major deficiencies that have been highlighted in the existing Coastal Regulation Zone Notification in the Swaminathan Committee Report *inter alia* include non-inclusion of ocean part under regulation zone, non-consideration of the diverse coastal environment, lack of enforcement and inadequate funding for implementation of the Rules. The Government's action plan for implementing M.S. Swaminathan Committee Report would require indepth examination of the recommendations contained in the report.

Himalayan Authority

3937. SHRI SURESH BHARDWAJ: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that the people living in the States of Himalayan region save the environment and ecology of the country;

(b) if so, whether the developmental requirements of these States are different from other States and special schemes are required to be made for development of this region; and

(c) whether Government propose to constitute Himalayan Authority which would be responsible for development of this region and allocate special funds for this purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) The people living in the State of Himalayan region have contributed significantly in serving the environment and ecology of the area by use of their traditional practices and the knowledge base on natural resource management and sustainable use.

(b) The developmental requirements of the Himalayan States are different from other regions to the extent that these have to be sensitive to ecological considerations. The G.B. Pant Institute of Himalayan Environment and Development under the administrative control of this Ministry, which is the only institute devoted to environment conservation and sustainable development of Himalayan region, undertakes research, research-based field demonstrations, and training of farmers as per the requirements of the local people, and consistent with the ecology of the region. Notable